

### REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26-82 are pending. Claim 25 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 26, 27, 29-32 and 37 have been amended. New drawings are submitted herewith that reflect the changes required in the Office Action. That is, Figs. 22-31 have been labeled as Prior Art.

The forms PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements of October 30, 2003 and December 28, 2000 were not returned with the Office Action. Applicant includes copies of these forms and requests that the Examiner initial all the cited references to indicate that they were considered.

Claims 1, 26, 29-32 and 37 were objected to based on informalities. The above amendments to those claims obviates those objections.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,510,151 (Cioli et al.) Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato (WO 99/59309). Claims 2, 23 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cioli et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,032,261 (Hulyalkar). Claims 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cioli et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,697 (Lawande et al.) Claims 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cioli et al. in view of Lawande et al. and Kato. Claims 37-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cioli et al. in view of Kato in further view of applicant's admission of prior art [AAPA]. Applicant submits that the amended independent claims are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a bridge for interconnecting together a plurality of buses each of which interconnects at least one node in a data network. The bridge includes: storage means for storing a number of receiving nodes with respect to each of connections being

established between nodes interconnected together on a same bus or each of connections being established between nodes interconnected together by means of different buses, means for detecting occurrence of the bus reset on the specific bus, and means for re-securing again resources that are previously secured before occurrence of the bus reset on the specific bus by a specific portal connected with the specific bus. A transmitting node and a receiving node remain connected with the data network regardless of occurrence of a bus reset on a specific bus constituting a part of a communication path that is established in advance for communication of stream packets.

In the rejection of claim 25, the subject matter of which has been incorporated into claim 1, the Office Action conceded that there was no teaching in Cioli et al. of the claimed bus reset. Lawande et al. was cited to remedy this deficiency. However, even when combined, Cioli et al. and Lawande et al. fail to teach or suggest every feature of claim 1.

In particular, while Lawande et al. does teach a bus reset, it contains no teaching or suggestion of detecting occurrence of the bus reset on the specific bus, and re-securing again resources that are previously secured before occurrence of the bus reset on the specific bus by a specific portal connected with the specific bus. In fact, Lawande et al. is directed to a system with only one bus. For at least this reason, there is no recognition in Lawande et al. of the problems in multi-bus systems relating to system reset.

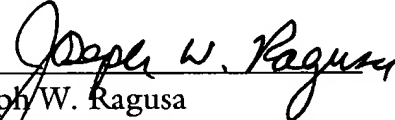
For at least this reason, amended independent claim 1 is believed patentable over the cited art. The other independent claims also recite the feature discussed above and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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